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## NOTES

Professor Cook's *A Literary Middle English Reader* (Ginn and Co.) is the book for which we have been waiting. Its matter, classified with reference to types, includes selections from romances, tales, chronicles, stories of travel, religious and didactic pieces, illustrations of life and manners, translations, lyrics, and plays. With this varied and abundant offering it will now be possible to study at close range in the classroom material that will give at once the needed training in language and the equally needed stimulus for further reading. Persons who have tried to buy Mätzner's *Sprachproben* and to read it after it was bought, will regret only that Professor Cook's *Reader* did not appear in time to save their patience and their eyes. Clear type on good paper, wide margins, an introduction for each specimen, and abundant glossarial notes at the foot of the page,—these are features of the book that teacher and student will welcome. The introduction contains a section on the literature, which not only introduces but recommends the specimens, and an admirably compact section on the language.

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*The Pronoun of Address in English Literature of the Thirteenth Century* by Arthur Garfield Kennedy (Leland Stanford Junior University Publications, pp. 91), is a study which endeavors to fix the date of the first appearance of the use of the "pluralis reverentiae" or "formal singular," as Mr. Kennedy terms it. Upon the basis of an extensive reading of texts he comes to the conclusion that the first occurrences are those in "Genesis and Exodus," approximately 1250 A.D. The use of the formal singular in the latter half of the thirteenth century is "sporadic and seems rather the occasional reflection of a practice familiar in some other tongue or at least in some other class of society than that of most of the English literature of the century." The author admits that he has found no positive evidence to prove either of these theories, but is inclined to believe that the formal singular in large part arose under the influence of the French in use at the English court. A useful bibliography accompanies the treatise.

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Dr. Joseph J. Reilly's *James Russell Lowell as a Critic* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915) examines in seven chapters Lowell's intellectual and temperamental equipment as a critic. The study, unlike those which overlook the author in favor of literary fashions and influence, reviews the critic's literary output with constant and illuminating reference to his personality. The method is clearly the best, if not the only one, for the subject in hand; for although Dr. Reilly in passing suggests Lowell's kinship with English and Scottish temperamental reviewers of the old school, the waywardness of the American makes him, whatever the school, more of a truant than a scholar. And yet a truant within bounds. A certain connoisseurship in taste and morals kept him the eclectic and the puritan, a provincial at the centre of his circle of friends and books. Never a citizen in the larger republic of letters, with neither science nor philosophy to guide his steps, he enjoyed the franchise of the ardent lover of Dante, Chaucer, and Shakespeare. For Goethe he had imperfect sympathy. How far he fell short of Arnold's singleness of purpose, of Coleridge's depth, of Lamb's insight, of Hazlitt's "steady lucidity and consistency," Dr. Reilly has made clear by analysis and citation. The book is furnished with a bibliography and an index.

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In his *Collected Literary Essays, Classical and Modern* (Cambridge: at the University Press, 1913) Dr. Verrall deals chiefly with classical themes. The

modern essays deal with *The Prose of Walter Scott* and *Diana of the Crossways*. In the former there is an analysis of the passage in *Guy Mannering* in which Meg Merrilies denounces Bertram of Ellaryowan, and some comment upon "Wandering Willie's Tale" in *Redgauntlet*, the analysis and comment being offered with a view to showing that Scott's style and technique, though usually loose, is on occasion carefully considered and well-ordered. The second of the two modern essays, originally contributed by the writer to the *National Home-reading Union*, detaches wit from Meredith's characteristics as the most salient trait of his mind and art, a wit that is sometimes transformed into eloquence, sometimes sparkles in repartee, and again degenerates into a sort of perverse and vertiginous word play.

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Mr. K. Sisam has published at the Clarendon Press (Oxford, 1915) a revised edition of Skeat's *Lay of Havelok the Dane*. The original Introduction has been remodelled with a view to incorporating the results of work which has been published since the appearance of the first edition. The notes to the second edition are mostly new, and its glossary has undergone careful revision. The book contains, too, a collation of the Cambridge Fragment made by Professor Carleton Brown.

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*Berkeley and Percival* by Benjamin Rand (Cambridge: at the University Press, 1914) is a scholarly and typographically beautiful edition of the correspondence of George Berkeley. The letters, most of which belong to the period between September 1709 and December, 1730, are taken from manuscripts in possession of the Earl of Egmont. With very few exceptions they have been printed for the first time in the volume before us. To these are added a score or so of excerpts from Percival's *Journal. A Biographical Commentary*, which is both substantial and entertaining, provides such information as is necessary for elucidating the text. The book contains five plates; two of Berkeley, two of Percival, and one of Berkeley's residence in Rhode Island.